



Phase Landle

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CABLE ADDRESS: RHODESIANS

RHODESIAN INFORMATION OFFICE

2852 MCGILL TERRACE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

April 4, 1977

Mr. Richard S. Salant
CBS Inc.
51 West 52nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10019

Dear Mr. Salant,

I write in protest about a program presented by CBS at 10 p.m. on Monday, March 28 entitled "Who's got the Right to Rhodesia." In his selection of film material, in his commentary and in his interviews producer Irv Drasnin presented a flagrantly slanted view of Rhodesia calculated to leave the impression of a sharply divided society on racial lines, of deep and abiding social and economic inequality and of pervasive resentment in the black community. Mr. Drasnin's bias was manifest throughout the program, and the end result was a totally unbalanced presentation of the Rhodesian scene. It was as though a foreign film-maker in the United States had concentrated his attention on urban ghetto conditions, rural poverty and a run-down Indian tribal reservation, presenting the product as a fair cross-section of American life.

For example, blacks interviewed in the program were almost exclusively dissidents, conveying the impression that there is massive political discontent amongst Rhodesian blacks. There were no interviews with chiefs, with black government ministers, with successful and prosperous professional and business men, or with the expanding number of blacks who are making their way in the middle levels of commerce and industry at equal rates of pay with their white counterparts.

References to the education system were disparaging and inaccurate. Drasnin's commentary claimed, for example, that 40% of black Rhodesian children get no schooling. In fact 91.5% of Rhodesia's black children receive schooling, compared with 40.8% in Nigeria, 29% in Tanzania and 5% in Ethiopia. None of these comparisons was offered in the commentary. Critical reference was made to the small number of children completing secondary education. It would have been honest to have noted that the expansion of secondary school facilities has been greatly hampered by the application of economic sanctions against Rhodesia, but that despite this handicap, secondary school places have increased by 233% since 1965.

.../2

Drasnin makes no reference to Rhodesia's multi-racial university, where there is a rough equality of black and white students sharing the same facilities. This is understandable because it would sit very uneasily with Drasnin's evident determination to have his viewers believe that Rhodesia is an irretrievably discriminatory society. He makes a lot of play with "Right of Admission Reserved" notices. He never takes us behind the doors of Rhodesia's leading hotels to show us blacks and whites drinking in the same bars. In a postscript so delayed that most viewers must have tuned out, Drasnin refers, albeit ungraciously, to a recent law which dismantled many elements of residual discrimination and opened up large areas of what was previously exclusive white land to black ownership without interfering with black tribal land. The practical effect of the new legislation is to leave 45% of Rhodesia's land area in exclusive black occupation, preserving 0.5% in exclusive white occupation. The comparative statistics are significant but are not called to the viewer's attention. Indeed he is encouraged to believe that the reform is meaningless.

There is no reference in the program to Rhodesia's health services, costing \$10 per head of population (black and white) per annum compared with an African continental average of about 50 cents. Blacks are treated at much lower costs than whites. At Salisbury's Harari hospital 1000 outpatients are treated daily at 50 cents a visit. Hospitalisation for blacks costs \$5 irrespective of the length of visit or complexity of the surgical or medical attention. One understands why Drasnin left the subject out of his theme of exploited and underprivileged blacks.

There is an interview with Prime Minister Smith edited down to an expression of concern about the encroachment of communism. This is then used in interviews with black political leaders to make Mr. Smith look as though he has a foolish and baseless obsession. It is a cheap shot which ignores the ideological underpinnings of the terrorist movement. Drasnin allowed some of the black politicians interviewed to get away with bland and innocuous statements of political objective at variance with views they have publicly offered on other occasions. The commentary reflected none of this ambivalence.

References to Rhodesia's armed forces sought to emphasise that they were segregated and white officered. An even-handed presentation would have noted the predominance of blacks in Rhodesia's army and police, the fact that there are black police station commanders, the fact that there will be black commissioned officers in the army by the middle of this year, the fact that special units like the Selous Scouts and Grey's Scouts are fully integrated socially and operationally.

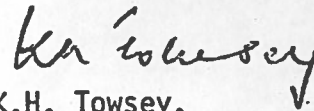
The only voice of organised religion on the program is that of Bishop Lamont, a highly politicised and controversial prelate, recently convicted in the court of harboring terrorists and inciting others to do so. Drasnin gives Lamont copious opportunity to air his anti-government views and to expatiate on alleged atrocities committed by Rhodesia's Security Forces. There is no balancing statement about the hideous atrocities perpetrated by the terrorists on innocent civilians. Over 900 (90% of them black) have been murdered in the last four years, either capriciously without reason or for no better reason than that they refused to support the terrorists. Not a word of censure or criticism is addressed to the terrorist leaders.

Throughout the program there is not a murmur of credit given to Mr. Smith for his acceptance of the Anglo-American proposals of last September, for his faithfulness to those proposals ever since, for his honest and sincere pursuit of an internal solution within the framework of the Anglo-American proposals or for his courageous dismantling of race discriminatory practices.

Drasnin's program was a pitiful travesty of truthful reporting. It is greatly to be deplored that such a manifestly prejudiced film should have been made at all. It is even more to be deplored that it should be aired at a time in Rhodesia's affairs when balanced and responsible judgment are crucially important.

Judging from the large number of outraged telephone calls we have had in the last week, this office is not isolated in its condemnation of Drasnin's program. It is our request that you will discuss with us facilities for redressing the balance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "K.H. Towsey". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. Below the signature, there is a small, handwritten letter "V".

K.H. Towsey.

CBS NEWS

A Division of CBS Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 975-4321

August 16, 1977

Ref. 1/8D

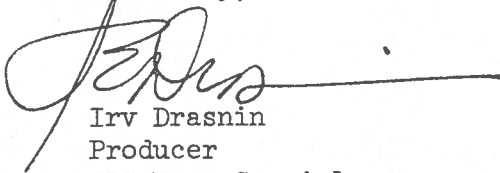
I have received your letter of 6 July 77 in reference to my correspondence with Mr. Towsey regarding the CBS News broadcast "Who's Got A Right To Rhodesia."

For the "considerable attention" you say my letter to Mr. Towsey received, it apparently has not stimulated a very thoughtful, logical or accurate response from your office.

Your position is belied by claims of statements I have not made, of views I do not hold and of motives I do not harbor. Not paramount among your misstatements but perhaps typical of them is your claim of providing "free and unfettered access to anything we wished in Rhodesia." You, of course, know better. I suspect that also holds true for the other inaccuracies and false assumptions contained in your letter.

Neither I nor anyone else I know at CBS News is a partisan in the affairs or politics of Rhodesia. I quite agree with your statement that those in the media "carry a heavy responsibility to correctly inform (the) public, to present the case, and allow (the public) to interpret it"; and that is what we did.

Sincerely,



Irv Drasnin
Producer
CBS News Specials
35 W. 45th St.
New York, N.Y. 10036

Department of Information
P.O. Box 8150
Causeway,
Salisbury,
Rhodesia

CBS MEMORANDUM

FROM: Irv Drasnin
TO: DAVE FUCHS
DATE: August 5, 1977

*Drw- I don't think you need to do
more than a general
sort of acknowledgement
of receipt*

This was waiting for me when I returned yesterday.
The signature is about as clear as the arguments
are cogent. While I don't think the letter should
be ignored, neither am I inclined toward a long
and detailed answer. How would you like it handled?

Did you know there are no (visible) pretzels in France?

*I am indeed, having tried
desperately to find them. In
fact, Europe in general seems
to suffer from pretzel poverty*

Tel. No. 703891
Telegrams: RHOFORM

P.O. Box 8150
Causeway
Salisbury
Rhodesia



Ref. 1/8D

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION,
P.O. BOX 8150,
CAUSEWAY,
SALISBURY,
RHODESIA.

6 July 1977.

Mr. I. Drasnin,
CBS News,
524 West 57 Street,
New York,
New York 10019,
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Drasnin,

Your letter of 27 May to Mr. Towsey has been referred to this office, where it has received considerable attention.

Your diligent research of the programme is evident, as is its radical presentation. Patently it tries to equate the white man as the ogre of the picture. Just what development he thwarts is not clear, but we assume that you would like to see the idyllic situation that pertains in Mozambique repeated here. Rights, in your opinion, belong only to the black men, the whites are entitled to none.

Your glib and talented facility at making statistics your proof shows your scholarship and your pre-occupation with superficialities that takes no cognisance of historic reality. It is a pity that you were unable, on your visit here, to free yourself from the strait jacket of pre-conceived prejudice. The honest man accepts that there are two sides to a problem, but you allow no such argument to deflect your intent to belittle and castigate the white Rhodesian.

We do not expect every journalist who visits Rhodesia to agree with us. What we would like and expect to see is objective reporting, without bias or imbalance. We do not and cannot claim to be beyond criticism, but we believe that your programme failed dismally to portray the facts in an impartial and objective manner. The result was a bias which, to the uninformed viewer, may not have been apparent, but which must have been obvious to anyone with a knowledge of Rhodesia, including yourself.

In the script, for example, you state that Mr Joshua Nkomo spent years in prison. In fact he was in detention, but was given whatever books, food etc he asked for. He and many other nationalists were detained in the Sixties when their activities had brought terror and chaos to the black community. Thugs roamed the black townships, beating, burning and killing. Blacks had to carry a membership card and pay dues to every nationalist party. Those who did not were beaten and sometimes murdered. A favourite practice was to burn down a hut without warning the family sleeping inside. Do you not think that someone responsible for this sort of behaviour should not have been detained? Do you wonder why emergency powers were used and emergency legislation promulgated?

Elsewhere you state: "Africans have left Rhodesia by the thousands to take up arms..." The vast majority of those who leave are schoolchildren who are hi-jacked over the border by armed terrorists. Most of them had no choice in the matter. Those who object are killed, even at the training camps in neighbouring states.

To turn to the specific points made in your letter:

(1) It would be ridiculous to pretend that there is not a certain degree of discontent among blacks, but you do not tell the whole story. Particularly you ignore those blacks who give testimony of their support for the government in a practical way - by fighting the terrorists who have killed so many of their own kind.

There are thousands of blacks in uniform (the exact number is classified) Every single one of them is a volunteer who knows that by supporting the government he may be singling himself out for attention from intimidators and terrorists. Many of these blacks, particularly those involved in the civil administration, a prime target of the terrorists, daily lay their lives on the line to defend a point of view which differs markedly from that of the dissidents. And not a few have made the final sacrifice for their beliefs. This demands a far greater degree of commitment than does speaking to a visiting journalist.

You state you were not prepared to listen to blacks whose "association with the government...(gave) them a vested interest in the status quo". Did it occur to you that people like Mugabe and Ikomo equally had a vested interest in changing the status quo?

Tremendous efforts have been made to bring rural blacks out of the peasant subsistence economy, and much success has been achieved. This will accelerate as more education is available, and as more educated blacks become adults, and are able to influence tribal thinking. At present, however, a large number of the blacks in tribal areas are backward and their advancement is not helped by the enormous population growth of 3,6 per cent per annum, which is among the highest in the world. Against this background, those blacks who have equal rates of pay with their white counterparts are therefore very important, because they represent the emergent black middle class which is so important to the future stability of this country. They may be small in number now, but they, as much as the politicians, hold the key to the future.

(2) I would like to correct a statement made in the programme, where it was stated that "for whites, school is free and compulsory; for blacks it is neither". Schooling is not free for whites - they in fact pay more for their schooling than do the blacks. Annual tuition fees for whites are: primary schools, \$18; senior schools, \$48; boarding fees are \$162 per annum regardless of age. For blacks they are \$6,80 primary; \$18 senior and \$60 for boarding. General purpose fees vary, but are higher in white schools.

Education for whites is compulsory; for blacks it is voluntary, and a large number drop out at the primary stage to pursue their careers. Over 60 per cent of blacks do go to primary school at the very least, a pretty good figure on the African continent, but a fact which you choose to ignore.

Why didn't you compare this with the situation in other black states. Here are some UNESCO figures on their illiteracy statistics for 1973-74. Kenya 75% Liberia 90% Malawi 75% Nigeria 65% Tanzania 80% The Gambia (Home of "Roots") 90% Uganda 70% Zaire 60% Zambia 80%

You state that the government has a policy of limiting expenditure on African education to 2 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product. This statement again concentrates on the negative side of the picture. If you mean government expenditure, why don't you say that expenditure on African Education is \$41 million, or more than 7½ per cent of government expenditure? In the estimates of expenditure put before Parliament for the year ending June 1977, African Education was the fourth biggest item on the entire government budget. Were it not for the terrorist incursions much more money would be available for black education.

Moreover, the great majority of this tax money comes from whites, in the form of income tax, companies tax and sales tax. In view of this, an expenditure of over 7,5 per cent of the budget on black education is extremely generous.

We think it is quite an achievement to have increased secondary school places by 233 per cent since 1965. We agree that there are not nearly enough places - but we do the best we can with the funds available and are certainly striving for further improvements.

Elsewhere in the script, you say "Rhodesian children share one thing - a white perspective of history". This is true. It is also true that the blacks had no recorded history before 1890 and the coming of the pioneers. The years were told by the seasons and nothing else. Rhodesia has no history as such apart from that recorded by whites. What history do you expect to be taught, I wonder?

(3) Your criticism that the races remain largely apart at the University is to a certain extent correct, but did you consider the fact that of the students resident there, only 81 are white, out of a whole student population of 828?

The fact that there are no Africans holding positions of administrative authority or departmental chairs has no bearing on the attitude of the University towards blacks. People are selected for these posts on merit. Many blacks choose to go and teach their own people in junior or secondary schools after obtaining their qualifications from the University.

(4) It is a fact that many blacks live at or below a subsistence level, if only cash income is considered. The majority of families, however, live a life wholly based on agriculture and have to be given a strong incentive to enter the cash economy. Their attitude, if they have a good harvest, is to sit back and live on the proceeds until they have to farm for their needs again. This attitude is very difficult to erase and it is extremely doubtful whether a black government would have any greater success in eradicating it.

But how about the Rhodesian Africans per capita income which is \$716 which is far higher than Kenya at \$181 : Liberia at \$333 : Gambia at \$180 : Uganda at \$162 : Zaire at \$172 : Zambia at \$360. You hide the truth and so distort the picture.

With regard to the credit available to farmers, there are far fewer white farmers than black. Moreover, the blacks for whom credit would be available would be the 8 400 in the Purchase areas and not the 600 000 heads of families in the tribal areas. In any country and in any business concern the amount of credit available is proportional to the size and efficiency of the undertaking in question.

Rhodesia is not a wealthy country like America and in our present situation it is vital that the efficient farmers, who are mostly white, should have the money they need to keep production high. The figures for the sale of crops and livestock for 1976 show that blacks produced \$30,4 million and whites \$307,1 million, more than ten times as much. Rhodesia is one of the few countries in Africa which is in a position to export food. Considering our population explosion, this is remarkable and it is attributable largely to white expertise.

It is wrong to say that blacks were given poor quality land. No mention is made that the division of land was the work of the British Government. In 1923 Sir William Morris Carter, Chief Justice of Uganda was sent out to make a fair apportionment of the land, Whitehall imposed his recommendations on Rhodesia as a prerequisite for responsible government. Many years of overcropping, erosion and poor standards of crop management have resulted in a decline in the natural fertility of arable land in the majority of the tribal lands. Conservation of the land is an important aspect of development programmes in these areas.

Two of the directly elected black Members of Parliament had this to say after a recent tour of the rural areas:

Mr. Ronald Sadomba, M.P. for Nemakonde: "Obviously the tribal farmer is not yet money orientated and the efforts made so far to wean him from his traditional system of farming have borne little fruit", -

Mr. Edward Watungwa, M.P. for Harari: "We must tell the tribesman that more money in his pocket will mean education for his children, more schools and hospitals and more comfortable living. They must prevent the destruction of young crops by wandering cattle and protect grazing areas from over use". Mr. Watungwa said that the inspiration for this must come from inside the tribal area. He said that compulsion from the outside would produce negative results.

(5) It is quite incorrect to say that the facilities at Harari hospital are antiquated and overcrowded. Harari is accepted by Birmingham University as a hospital suitable for training doctors for the M.B., Ch.B. (Birmingham), so they must believe that Harari offers facilities similar to those offered by the teaching hospital in Birmingham.

Doctors' posts at Harari are recognised by the Royal Colleges in Britain for higher education at post-graduate level.

It is true that from time to time there are long queues of outpatients attending hospitals, but it is also true that all black patients who need treatment get it, whether or not they are able to pay for it.

It is also true that we are understaffed medically, but this is largely due to the British Government denying us free access to advertising in that country, which has been our traditional source of recruiting medical staff.

In 1901 there were an estimated 700 000 blacks in Rhodesia. In mid-1977 they are estimated to total nearly 7 000 000. This dramatic population rise is a tribute to the excellence of our medical services, which have eliminated or controlled infectious diseases. For example:

There have been no cases of smallpox in Rhodesia since 1969; Cholera was virtually eliminated from the country after its introduction by terrorists from across the border; Rhodesian hospitals treated 2 269 000 outpatients in 1975; Rhodesia has one hospital bed for every 350 of the population - this compares with one bed for every 1 867 of the population in Nigeria (1975)
The prevailing death rate among Rhodesian blacks is approximately 16 deaths per thousand population.

Compare these successes in a country where the majority of the population lives a peasant existence with what Dr. John Knowles said in Time magazine of August 9, 1976 about America: "We should be horrified by the un-met medical and nutritional needs of nearly 25 000 000 poor people".

(6) The very fact that communist countries are pouring money and weapons into the conflict in Rhodesia is indicative of their hopes of a Marxist black government here, and the terrorist atrocities bespeak their methods.

(7) Black officers have now been commissioned into the Rhodesian army and they have full authority over whites, as was stated by Lt. Genl. Peter Walls. It is not customary for soldiers to be filmed or interviewed in the field, for security reasons.

The majority of blacks are in the RAR, which is basically a black unit. Having regard for the difference in language, diet, social attitudes and behaviour it would be impossible to put tribal blacks and urbanised whites in the same unit as can be done in the US, where men come from similar backgrounds. It is a fact that the Rhodesian African Rifles have an esprit de corps second to none in Rhodesia. In any case, the elite Selous Scouts and Greys' Scouts are completely multi-racial.

(8) Again the question of balance is raised. Bishop Lamont, a critic of the government, is interviewed - fair enough. But where is an interview with a cleric who supports the government, such as Father Arthur Lewis? What about Father Dunstan Myerscough, who saw seven of his colleagues mown down by machine-gun fire, and incredibly, escaped with his own life and who later said: "There is no doubt whatever in my mind that they were killed by terrorists". You ignored this, plus ballistic and other evidence of the fact that terrorists were responsible, merely saying "each side blamed the other".

You say in your letter that atrocities against the black civilian population are mentioned in radio reports "alleging" such acts. In fact, every terrorist act, be it murder or cutting off the lips of people who "talked", is documented by the police.

It seems to suit Rhodesia's apponents to say that all these atrocities are "alleged" by the Government, implying that they may not have occurred at all. I repeat, every incident is documented by the police, who have photographic evidence of the atrocities.

You say of atrocities and the deaths of innocent victims: "I don't think you mean to argue that such incidents are committed by only one side". It is an unfortunate fact that innocent victims have been killed, some of them by Rhodesian security forces. The difference is that those killed by the security forces are killed unintentionally. The overwhelming evidence shows that by far the majority of innocent victims are the victims of intentional and brutal attempts by terrorists to obtain the support of tribespeople.

Despite your contention that we have a "controlled press", yet another glib throwaway from your programme, you make no mention of the fact that Rhodesia trusted you and allowed you free and unfettered access to anything you wished. Perhaps we should adopt the attitudes of Moscow, Peking and Uganda.

In effect, the advent of the white man to Rhodesia brought the indigenous population into the 20th Century directly from a barbaric, atavistic, and primitive environment. It has been a miraculous achievement. The black Rhodesian himself is more aware of his physical and mental superiority over other black African populations than you are evidently aware.

As a media man you carry a heavy responsibility to correctly inform your public, to present the case, and allow them to interpret it. In this instance you have done your countrymen a grave disservice, by manipulating the facts in accordance with your own personal prejudice and portraying a travesty of the real Rhodesia.

Yours sincerely,



for: DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION



**BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEVADA
HERPETOLOGICAL DIVISION**

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Stephen Hill, Senior Curatorial Asst.
Joe Coli, Research Coordinator

*Art. V
Documentaries
in Hostile
Places*
11/12
REC'D NOV 21 1977

November 12, 1977

Sir:

Irv Drasnin should of had the 'slippery mat' pulled out from under him. His reference to himself as a journalist is misleading- a narrow-minded incapable fool would be more appropriate. The liberal's view of Rhodesia he presented was warped and contrived to get his points across. Are informers, low-income blacks, dissatisfied citizens and wealthy whites indigenous only to Rhodesia?

Hans F. Koenig

Hans F. Koenig

4/7/77

Mr. Drasin
CBS News

Dear Mr. Drasin:

I watched your "Inside Rhodesia". While your programs are good, how effective can you really be when the viewer soon realizes it's another slanted program under the guise of news information? Impartiality was only lip service in chosen interviews.

Why didn't you point out: that most of the guerrillas have never even lived in Rhodesia? That most of the arms supplied to the guerrillas originate in the Soviet Union. That while the black wages, although low in Rhodesia, are certainly lower in surrounding countries. That there is no semblance of democracy in all of black Africa. And finally that Rhodesia is one of only two stable governments south of the Sahara.

Instead of giving equal time to the hunters, I wish you would have saved it for the whites in Rhodesia.

By the way I'm still waiting for your program on U.S. aid to Israel. Did Jewish pressure force CBS to burn it?

Sincerely,
William McShane
29 Glenside Way
San Rafael, Ca. 94903

April 2, 1977

Mr. Dick Salant, News Director
Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
51 West 52 Street
New York, N. Y. 10019

Dear Mr. Salant,

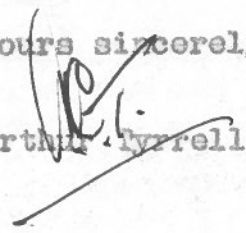
Your CBS News Special Report "Who's Got a Right to Rhodesia" was an appalling production amounting to a series of simplistic exaggerations, not badly needed information on this little-known country.

As a United Nations Information Centre Director -- now retired after some 24 years with the Secretariat -- I know something of the responsibilities that are imposed when issuing information on international events, and in this film CBS failed in its duty toward accuracy and objectivity.

While in no way subscribing to the views of the Rhodesian Front and Mr. Ian Smith, I found during my last visit to Rhodesia, less than two years ago, that a majority of Rhodesians -- African and white, Asian and Colored (incidentally, the latter two minorities ignored by your producer) -- hold views considerably in advance of the government and look forward to a peaceful change to majority rule. It would have given some balance to the views expressed in your filmed interviews to have included some of these people. As it was, to concentrate on the views of extremists, both black and white, and to show whites in ridiculous poses playing bowls while contrasting this segment with unhappy Africans is cheap sensationalism, not objective reporting. Even the title "Who's Got a Right to Rhodesia" is not only inelegant but is belligerent. Surely it might be desired that all Rhodesians of whatever color have a right to continue residence under majority rule?

With this report CBS can only have done harm and lost an opportunity to promote understanding so badly needed in this problem.

Yours sincerely,


Arthur Tyrrell

Box 14
Orient, N. Y. 11957

Cc: Mr. Irv Drasin

CBS NEWS

A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 765-4321

Dear Mr. Tyrrell:

April 8, 1977

Thank you for your letter of April 2, 1977, regarding the CBS News Special "Who's Got A Right To Rhodesia." I have heard of the excellent work your brother (Mr. Ranger Tyrrell of Sanders Ltd. in Salisbury) has done in the Coloured community of Arcadia.

Your letter contains many charges which lack substantiation. For example, it would be difficult to substantiate your assertion that "a majority of Rhodesians... hold views considerably in advance of the government." The fact is that the Rhodesian Front is in control of the government and has been since before the Unilateral Declaration of Independence. In the last election (1974), over 75% of the European electorate supported the Rhodesian Front. Moreover, the Rhodesian Front holds all fifty seats reserved for whites in Parliament.

While in Rhodesia, we did speak with several people who wished for "peaceful change to majority rule," but few who were optimistic enough to "look forward" to such an eventuality.

Those who spoke with strong disapproval of the government, urging solutions far in advance of the government's proposals, were very few in number and described themselves as helpless. They are unable to generate the support needed to achieve positions of power in order to effect such changes, and come under severe criticism and censure by the white community for their efforts. One young Salisbury woman told us that after one attempt to defend the principle of majority rule to her co-workers, she came under such pressure that she feared for her job.

I find it difficult, given the support that the RF has had from the vast majority of white Rhodesians, to understand your reference to "the extremists, both black and white" whose views were given in the broadcast. In the context of the whites at least, while you personally may not subscribe to the views of Messrs. Smith, Van der Byl, and Frost, and the other white Rhodesians who appeared in the broadcast, they are representative of the majority, rather than being extremists.

April 8, 1977

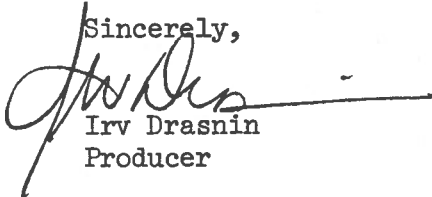
As for the Asian and Coloured communities, their special problems were not covered in the broadcast because while they too are subject to discrimination, its source is de facto rather than de jure. The issue in Rhodesia is between African and European. The Asian and Coloured communities represent only a small fraction of the population: .2% and .3% respectively.

While the sport of bowls may or may not necessitate "ridiculous poses" as you describe them, the game is a regular feature of life in Rhodesia. It was presented not in juxtaposition with unhappy blacks, but within the context of white life in Rhodesia. We also included a look at Africans enjoying a sport -- golf. Taken within the larger context in which they were presented, both scenes are part of an objective report, not instances of "cheap sensationalism."

Finally, the broadcast does not question anyone's right to live in Rhodesia; it simply poses the question as it is being debated and fought over by Rhodesians, black and white. In fact, the title is derived from a remark by a white Rhodesian. As the farmer in the opening segment of the broadcast expressed it:

"My forefathers arrived at the Cape in 1667 -- that's over 300 years ago. Who's got a right to the southern part of Africa."

Sincerely,



Irv Drasnin
Producer

Mr. Arthur Tyrrell
Box 14
Orient, New York 11957

cc Richard Salant

CBS NEWS

A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
624 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 755-4321

Apt. #320
509 University Avenue
Syracuse, N.Y. 13210

29 March 1977

Mr. Irv Drasnin
CBS News
Rockerfeller Center
New York, N.Y.

Dear Irv: David W. Harris
509 University Avenue
Apt. 320
Syracuse, New York 13210

You may remember me from our student tour of the Middle East in 1958.

I saw your special report on Rhodesia last night and regret to say that, with the exception of your brief closing remarks, it struck me as a re-run of the same kind of hatchet-job which CBS did on Vietnam during the war.

I served with AID in Vietnam during 1969-74 and saw at first hand how the American news media portrayed the security measures enacted by the South Vietnamese in response to the North Vietnamese invasion as evidence of "un-democratic" government. Surely it would have been more proper to compare these measures with the restrictions which were and are today everyday facts of life in North Vietnam and every other communist state.

Furthermore, neither I nor anyone else I know at Rhodesia is involved in a "campaign" for or against the living conditions, wages, pass laws and other security regulations necessitated by the current emergency in Rhodesia must be viewed against the living conditions, wages, pass laws and restrictions on civil liberties which exist in black-ruled countries contiguous to Rhodesia, which are not under attack. I believe that such a comparison would reveal that, relatively speaking, Rhodesia is a bastion of freedom and prosperity for black Africans, far more worthy of U.S. support than condemnation.

In my considered opinion, the American news media played an unconscionable role in its reporting of the Vietnam war; and CBS was one of the worst offenders. I'm sorry that your career has led you to participate in a similar irresponsible CBS campaign against Rhodesia and South Africa.

Sincerely,

David W. Harris
David W. Harris

CBS NEWS

A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 765-4321

April 5, 1977

Mr. David W. Harris
509 University Avenue
Apt. 320
Syracuse, New York 13210

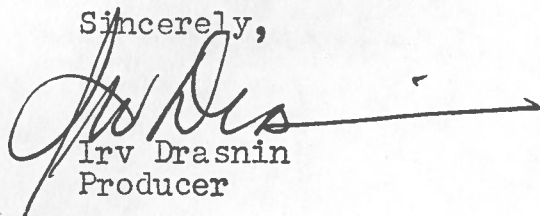
Dear David:

I apologize for not remembering you, but not for "Who's Got A Right To Rhodesia."

You are certainly entitled to your views, and to express them, but I consider them intemperate, undocumented and badly misinformed.

Furthermore, neither I nor anyone else I know at CBS is involved in a "campaign" for or against anything or anyone. We gave Rhodesians -- white and black -- the opportunity to speak for themselves and reported the facts as we found them in that country.

Sincerely,



Irv Drasnin
Producer

March 29, 1977

Mr. Irv Drasnin
CBS, Incorporated
51 West 52nd Street
New York, New York 10019

Dear Mr. Drasnin:

As a Rhodesian American who has an M.S. degree (U.S.) in journalism, I can state unequivocally that your CBS special "Who's Got a Right to Rhodesia" is undoubtedly the most jaundiced piece of yellow television journalism to be produced in the past decade.

Your lopsided vendetta against Rhodesia failed to include the following:

1. The views of moderate black leaders who support the black and white "partnership" concept and condemn Communism. These include Charles Mzingeli (see attached), Jeremiah S. Chirau (see attached), and many white Rhodesians like my sister (see attached) who welcome responsible "black majority rule."
2. The true picture of the freedom fighters whose tactics of terror have led to mass intimidation of those whose fear of speaking out is much greater than those blacks who you were quite free to interview for your program. (See attached.)
3. An explanation of the real reason white Rhodesians are forced to stay and fight.
4. An accurate explanation of all of the realities of Rhodesia and the answers to why some of the conditions you referred to exist today.
5. An explanation of why, despite any concessions to majority rule Smith has made, he is continually maligned as a bigot and racist.

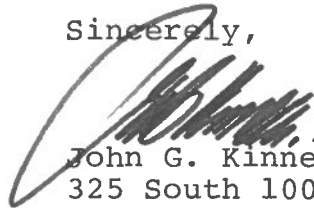
While you faithfully covered the bases with Mugabe (the Marxist), Bishop Lamont (the notorious terrorist supporter) and others whose views obviously supported your own bias, you did grave injustice to moderates seeking a peaceful solution to a very complex problem.

Mr. Irv Drasnin
March 29, 1977
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On behalf of all moderate non-racist Rhodesians, black and white, I request equal time be given by CBS for 60 minutes of prime television time so that supporters of the "partnership" concept be allowed to air the opposite of what you have presented.

Your program was an offense to all fair-minded Americans of all races.

Sincerely,



John G. Kinnear
325 South 1000 East
Bountiful, Utah 84010

cc: John Stanton, President of CBS
Abbott Washburn, Commissioner of FCC
Ken Towsey, Rhodesia Information Office
Senator Jake Garn
Senator Orrin G. Hatch

CBS NEWS

A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 765-4321

April 9, 1977

Mr. John G. Kinnear
325 South 1000 East
Bountiful, Utah 84010

Dear Mr. Kinnear:

I have read your letter of 29 March 77 regarding the CBS News broadcast "Who's Got A Right To Rhodesia."

While I deplore the recklessness of your language, and of your charges, you are entitled to your opinions. However, I judge your claim to speak "on behalf of all moderate non-racist Rhodesians" and that the "program was an offense to all fair-minded Americans of all races" to be wildly excessive and contrary both to the response we've received to the broadcast, and to the facts.

With regard to the points you've raised:

1. If the "moderate black leaders" you refer to truly command a significant African following in Rhodesia, it is difficult to understand why the Rhodesian Front -- if it is sincere in wanting to realize majority rule -- has so far refused to hold any kind of national referendum to test that possibility. That is an alternative repeatedly urged by at least one black Rhodesian spokesman with whom Mr. Smith has sought to negotiate, Bishop Abel Muzorewa of the United African National Council (whose views, along with Messrs. Smith, Van der Byl and Frost were among those represented in the broadcast).

It is curious that the article you've enclosed about Charles Mzingeli is dated November 14, 1965 -- when he was already 60 years old. I don't know whether he is still alive, but the only reference to him we heard or saw in Rhodesia was in a history book. Dead or alive, he is not a factor in current Rhodesian politics. With respect to Mr. Chirau, he is at best a controversial figure. He is considered by a great many black Rhodesians and every recognized black Rhodesian leader to be a puppet of the Smith government. But presumably

2. Mr. Kinnear

that too could be tested if a referendum were to be held in Rhodesia (a course which less than two weeks ago Mr. Smith called "a non-starter").

There are white Rhodesians who would welcome majority rule (at least as an alternative to war), but their number is relatively few and it is virtually impossible for them to test their views or rally support for them politically or in the government-controlled media in Rhodesia. The fact remains that all fifty seats reserved for whites in the Rhodesian parliament are held by the Rhodesian Front and have been for some time; and that in the last election, the RF received more than 75 per cent of the vote.

I notice that you qualify the subject of majority rule in your letter, in referring to your sister's outlook, as "responsible majority rule." Mr. Smith has made clear that "responsible majority rule" does not mean one-man one-vote but a continuation of franchise restrictions which -- as they now stand -- disqualify the vast majority of black Rhodesians. There are a great many Africans who view this as a device for the continuation of white control in Rhodesia. It is certainly the terms in which Messrs. Smith, Van der Byl, Frost and others continue to talk of "majority rule" in Rhodesia -- in terms of "responsible" and "meritocracy." Those conditions are unacceptable to black Rhodesian leaders, as evidenced by the repeated failure of attempts to reach a negotiated settlement.

2. Undoubtedly, the "true picture of the freedom fighters" -- or terrorists, or guerillas (the neutral term used in the broadcast) -- depends on one's point of view, literally, which side you're on. We do not take sides, but to the extent it is possible, let all sides speak for themselves. There is reasonable evidence to assume excesses on both sides in the Rhodesian conflict -- the government's as well as the African's, and reasonable men condone neither.

3. Since you do not state what you judge to be "the real reason" white Rhodesians are "forced to stay and fight," it is impossible for me to comment on that.

4. Since you do not indicate what you judge to be "an accurate explanation of all (your emphasis) the realities of Rhodesia etc...", it is also impossible for me to comment on that.

5. Since neither we, or for that matter anyone in the broadcast, called Mr. Smith "a bigot and racist", I fail to see why we are obligated to explain why he is -- according to you -- so maligned. The broadcast states that the United Nations,

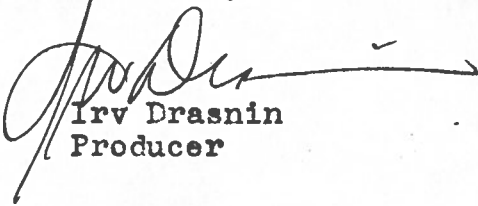
3. Mr. Kinnear

in imposing trade sanctions against Rhodesia, called it "an illegal and racist regime", which it did. We also gave Mr. Van der Byl, Rhodesia's Foreign Minister, the opportunity to respond to that description, which he does. It is Mr. Van der Byl who says in the broadcast:

"...(Rhodesia)...is looked upon as almost a fascist, racist state...and of course, this is perfectly absurd."

I fail to see any merit or cause for your claim to equal time.

Sincerely,



Irv Drasnin
Producer

①

28 March '77

COLORADO ACADEMY
Box 1177 ENGLEWOOD
COLORADO 80110

Dear Mr. Drasnin,

I've just watched your magnificently informative documentary on Rhodesia, which has produced these reactions - (a) I am convinced that a role such as you play in society is as meaningful & necessary as any & more important than 99.9% of all professions. (b) Admiration & respect for the excellence of the job you did - the incisiveness, the thoroughness - but gee, it's certainly difficult to be optimistic about the human condition sometimes - In my opinion we produce too few Gandhis, Ho Chi Minhs, Maos, Trumans (?) & too many Amins, Smiths & the nameless minority rulers of Rhodesia quoted as saying the blacks always prefer strong white leadership. (c) The documentary also left me with a strong sense of outrage, the frustration about which one can do little or nothing, which I have seen in many of the 30-odd countries I've traveled to & lived in.

i.e. Australian aborigines & the conditions
live in, ordinary Soviet citizens afraid
to talk to a visitor, the way most people
live in India.

Did you happen to read the story
on China in the recent "Reader's Digest" -
very presumptuous, of questionable
accuracy, & ill-mannered, in my
opinion. Our delegation has been bombarded
by TV, radio, & Associated Press upon
return from China - this has been good
for the kids, making them more
articulate & teaching them to think on
their feet. I hope to return to China with
a different grp. of students next yr. I
feel that in seeing sg. Totally different
our young ambassadors were able to
form valid critical insights about
themselves, their education, lifestyle,
country, culture, among other benefits.
I plan to come thru N.Y.C. some-
time in June, July, or Aug. on my way to/from
the Psmirs to attempt to ascend P. K.
Kommunizma (24,590 ft.) & would certainly
consider it a highlight to talk to you
briefly ($\frac{1}{2}$ hr.?) about my film treatment if
you will be in N.Y.C. & have the
time. A dream & 300 hrs. of work & negotiating
brought the China trip about, & I am con-
vinced that an equally great "Victory" could be
achieved with the film treatment.

(3)

COLORADO ACADEMY
Box 1177 ENGLEWOOD
COLORADO 80110

One problem I am facing now is one I wonder if you faced with "Shanghai" - 10 mos. of planning, 20 days of "perfection" within human limits, outstanding follow-up - (radio talk shows, etc.), head of U.S. - China program at Stanford coming for a follow-up seminar for 11-15 year-old-students & their families in April - how does one equal or surpass this project!?

Please let me know about your next projects. I think you have made work at the highest levels of excellence habitual!

All the best To you,

Sincerely,

Roger F. Kirpatrick
P.S. A.P. China trip article enclosed